

990323

09/761,219

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 6, 7, and 14-29 without prejudice; and amended claims 1, 8, and 13. Claims 2-5 and 9-12 remain in the application without amendment.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indicated allowability of claims 7 and 13 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims to overcome the objection to these claims.

Applicant has rewritten independent claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 7 and intervening claim 6. Thus, claim 1 as rewritten should be allowed in the next Office action.

Further, claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled, and claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 5 in light of the cancellation of claims 6 and 7

Moreover, dependent claims 2-5, claim 8 as amended, and claims 9-12 should be allowed at least by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claim 1 as rewritten.

Applicant has rewritten allowable claim 13 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Thus, independent claim 13 as rewritten should be allowed in the next Office action.

Claims 14-29 have been canceled. Thus, any of the objections and rejections applicable to these claims are moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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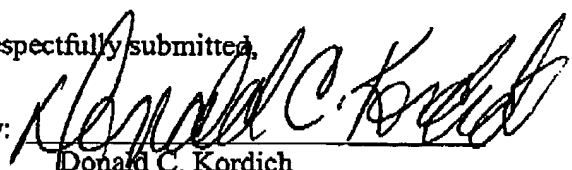
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of the response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: October 18, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

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